Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of this Application. Claims 1-20 are pending after entry of the present Amendment.

The Applicant hereby acknowledges the allowance of claims 5-20.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Office has maintained rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,549,918 to Probert, Jr. et al. ("Probert"). In rejecting the Applicant's comments, the Office has cited to column 8, lines 25-35 of Probert for support. The cited passage of Probert specifically states:

> "If a single conversion between A and C is available on only one of the client and server, only one conversion need take place. It should be noted that a filter driver on the server side may be all that is required, as it can provide format conversions on the client's view of information prior to providing it to the client, and also can appropriately transform information provided by the client to the proper format for storage on the server."

The Office has interpreted the above-cited passage to convey "if a single conversion is available on only the server node, Probert will use only one filter driver on the server node or I/O node to convert file system."

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art reading the cited passage would not have arrived at such interpretation. Rather, the cited passage conveys that if a single conversion is to be performed, the single conversion occurs either only on the server or only on the client. In such a scenario, (a) a single filter driver defined on the server can perform all the required functions, or (b) the client and the server each includes a filter driver.

One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that to perform a single conversion using a single filter driver, the filter driver should be defined on the server side, as the client sending the request may not be capable of determining the file system type on the server. As a consequence, the filter driver defined in the server side should (1) intercept and supplement the request issued by the client, and (2) convert the request in the client format to the server format. In this manner, the request issued by the client is transported to the server to be processed by the filter driver, as is (i.e., without being supplemented). This is contrary to the claimed

invention wherein the consumer node includes a driver for supplementing requests from the first file system while the I/O node includes a translator layer configured to map the supplemented requests to the second file system and vice versa.

In the event a filter driver is also defined on the client side, the request as issued by the client still cannot be supplemented before being transported over the network to the server. This occurs because when the filter driver is defined on the client, the filter driver is disclosed to intercept the request, only. Probert does not disclose that, as intercepted, the request is supplemented by the filter driver on the client so as to reveal the file system type of the client. This is contrary to the claimed invention wherein the supplemented request is configured to carry the type of the consumer node file system to be revealed to the I/O node. The translator layer residing on the I/O node is configured to use the supplemented request to determine the file system type of the client sending the supplemented request and map the supplemented request in the first format to the second format. Furthermore, the translator layer in the claimed invention is configured to analyze and determine the type of the consumer node file system and then map the supplemented request from the first file system to the second file system. Probert, however, fails to disclose that the filter driver is capable of performing such functions.

Additionally, in the latter scenario, the filter driver component is defined in both, the client and the server. That is, Probert defines the same component on both, the server and the client, which is contrary to the claimed invention wherein the driver is defined on the client to intercept and supplement the request from the first file system and the translator is defined on the I/O node to map the supplemented request from the first file system to the second file system and vice versa. Furthermore, having the same type of component (i.e., the filter driver) on the client and the server, allows each of the client and the server to perform separate single conversions. This, however, is contrary to what is disclosed by Probert wherein when a single conversion is to be performed, the conversion takes place in either the client or the server, and not both.

Thus, Probert fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as claimed in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Probert. In a like manner, dependent claims 2-4 each of which directly or indirectly depends from independent claim 1 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Probert for at least the reasons set forth above regarding the applicable independent claim.
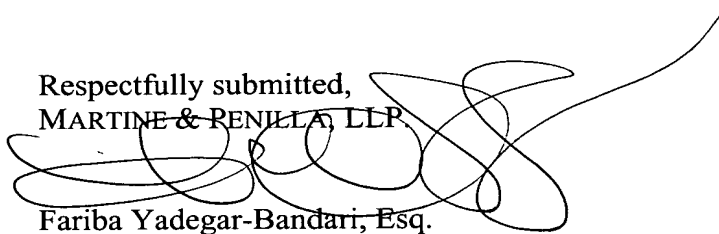
Indication of Allowability:

The Applicants acknowledge the Office's comment that independent claims 25 and 26 are allowable.

The Applicant submits that this Response to Final Office Action complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) and should be entered. The remarks do not raise any new issues and could not have been submitted earlier. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of this response to Final Office Action.

The Applicant respectfully requests examination on the merits of the subject application, and respectfully submits that claims 1-4 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6900, ext. 6913. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. INSTP002). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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